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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

Tues., Aug. 16

To Robert Bowie - CIA

Dear Bob,

NSC REVIEW COMPLETED, 6/26/2003

Just a short note, on the eve of my China trip, to thank you for the very positive and constructive role you have played in our thinking about China issues over the past few months. In particular, the three papers you sent over -- the Taiwan NIAM, the global reaction paper (both of these were used heavily by Secretary Vance when he described for the President the risks entailed in normalization), and now the PRC objectives and Priorities paper -- were, I thought, excellent.

I am encouraging both Zb.j and Secretary Vance to read the later paper. Of course, they already absorbed the former ones.

You have done what you are supposed to do: make sure we address the tough questions in a realistic manner. I trust you'll continue to do so.

And please thank your staff as well. Secretary Vance goes better prepared as a result of their efforts.

Sincerely,

Mike Oksenberg

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